

"Okay to Enter"
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for characterizing a compound that prevents, inhibits or ameliorates cachexia in an animal, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) administering the compound to an animal with cachexia;
- (b) comparing energy metabolism, food intake or motor activity in said animal with energy metabolism, lean body mass, food intake or motor activity in an animal with cachexia that is not administered the compound; and
- (c) identifying compounds that prevent, inhibit or ameliorate cachexia when less fat or lean body mass loss or reduction in energy metabolism, food intake or motor activity is detected in animals to which the compound has been administered than in animals to which the compound has not been administered.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein cachexia is experimentally induced in the animal.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein cachexia is experimentally induced in the animal by administration of lipopolysaccharide or implantation of tumor cells or tissue.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is an MC-4 melanocortin receptor inhibitor.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or treating a pathological feeding behavior in an animal, the method comprising administering an effective amount of a mammalian melanocortin MC-4 receptor antagonist to an animal having a pathological feeding behavior ~~the animal~~.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the pathological feeding behavior is